

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EUR-12 ACDA-05 SAM-01 AID-05 DHA-02

/095 W

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R 301118Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3908

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1512

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, US, PORG

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI PRESS REACTION TO US MID-EAST VETO

1. US SECURITY COUNCIL VETO OF MID-EAST RESOLUTION HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PLAY IN BOTH ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR PRESS DURING PAST THREE DAYS. IN ADDITION TO FRONT-PAGE STORIES, ALL MAJOR PAPERS EDITORIALIZE ON US VETO.

2. CONSIDERING PAKISTAN'S CLOSE TIES TO MUSLIM WORLD, ITS GENERALLY UNSWERVING SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSES, AND ITS ROLE AS CO-SPONSOR OF RESOLUTION AND SC MEMBER, EDITORIAL REACTION HAS BEEN NOTABLY RESTRAINED AND LOW-KEY. ON NEGATIVE SIDE, US IS CRITICIZED FOR ACTING SHORTSIGHTEDLY IN ATTEMPTING TO RESUSCITATE RESOLUTIONS (242 AND 338) WHICH NO LONGER REFLECT REALITIES OF SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. AS EXPECTED, ISRAEL IS STRONGLY CRITICIZED FOR ITS OBDURATE STAND AND US COMES IN FOR ITS SHARE OF OPPOSITION BECAUSE OF USG MILITARY AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. EDITORIALS NOTE US IS CONCERNED ABOUT STRAINING ITS

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RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND HUD THEREFORE NOT BEEN WILLING TO

PERSUADE GOI TO TAKE MEANINGFUL STEPS TOWARD PEACE.

3. EDITORIAL REACTION, HOWEVER, DOES NOTE THAT PROGRESS TO DATE IN MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN DUE TO AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND COMPLIMENTS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S STATEMENT THAT USG RECOGNIZES NEED TO WORK WITH ALL PARTIES IS SIMILARLY WELL-RECEIVED AS IS US POSITION THAT WE MUST WORK TOWARD SOLUTION OF ALL ISSUES, INCLUDING ISSUE OF FUTURE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. NEWS-PAPER COMMENTS VIEW SUCH REMARKS AS HOPEFUL SIGNS FOR THE FUTURE.

4. "MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER" TONE OF EDITORIALS INDICATE THAT GOP GUIDANCE TO PRESS ON THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN TO GIVE THE DEBATE AND VOTE COVERAGE BUT TO BE RESTRAINED IN CRITICISM OF US VETO. BYROADE

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